**Beyond the NBDC, initial discussions on a proposal to take forward the work initiated in the current work.**

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**Introduction:**

After the NBDC stakeholder dialogue meeting held in Bahir Dar, July 23-24, 2013 a small group of interested partners got together as a task force to explore how to take forward the work initiated in the current project which will come to a close in December.

**Attendance**:

Representatives from ABA (Dr. Antenah Zewdie), ARARI (Dr. Birru Yitafru), BDU (Dr Yihenew Gebreselassie), ORARI (Dr. Assefa Taa), Ambo U (Dr Asmare Dejen), Wollo U together with ILRI and IWMI were present. Apologies but with a strong interest in participating were received from CIDA (Yacob Wondimkun), World Bank (Million Alemayehu) and Amhara BOA (Teshome Walle).

**Discussion:**

There was agreement that NBDC has provided a good platform for research into development centred on natural resource management and specifically rainwater management. That this work needed to be extended and built upon by another phase to the work. For this to happen there needs to be a concept note and proposal which outlines in sufficient detail all the elements of a proposal such as beneficiaries, activities, outcomes and potential budget. From the discussion the following points on which the proposal should be built from were made:

1. The focus of the next phase of the work should go beyond RWM/NRM and be built around increasing agricultural productivity, reducing poverty and diversifying livelihoods
2. The importance of a joint planning process at regional and federal level, including extension, research, education, and that this needs to be linked to policy; there need to be a coordination mechanisms for this (activities in the region, need to be driven by the regions). Furthermore, that from the outset the proposal needs to be co-constructed to reflect the needs of different partners. The partners represent a diverse set of organisations covering many aspects of water and natural resource management, administration, research, NGO’s. Through early involvement it will be possible to increase ownership and ensure it covers all angles- integrated. It was acknowledged there may need to be other organisations under-represented or not currently represented- such as private sector To ensure long term sustainability it was generally agreed that the proposal should be led by Ethiopian organisations with appropriate input and support from ILRI/IWMI. This should increase the long term sustainability of the project if successful.
3. Currently task force is a bit under represented in the extension area and unsure of representation from Benishangul-Gumuz. To help rectify tit was suggested that we should ask Dr. Fentahun to delegate someone from EIAR to take part in the task force; also Adana Kassa (Water action/current chain of the National platform) has shown interest.
4. Activities/Concepts/Content: The proposal and project will contain elements of interventions, capacity building, innovation platforms, empowerment, knowledge centres (with reference material), joint working practices and internships, value chains, gender, scaling and outreach, monitoring and evaluation. Perhaps a bridge between agriculture and energy and theGERD, although the principal focus will be as an aid and input to SLM2. The types of activities envisaged include-review of existing outputs and outcomes on which to build (and fill in gaps), further trial interventions and roll out of interventions both biophysical and institutional, design and specify implementation of capacity building for a range of stakeholders beyond research, including short training courses, model future scenarios to assist what are the likely consequences of interventions at a variety of scales and points in the basin. Highlight benefits of cross institutional learning through internships and placements. This could also include CG post-docs working within partner organisations. Include some thinking on mechanisms for outscaling and communicating achievements and outcomes of successes (and failures). After thought it might be worth putting in the scope of the work the work will also support the Ethiopian Governments drive on CRGE.
5. Scale/sites: Work should utilize data and knowledge collected from three principal sites worked on during the current NBDC programme. Further consideration of fourth site Kabi watershed and possibly another in Benishangul-Gumuz. These may be associated with other, learning catchments. The detail of what activities should occur at these sites was not discussed but presume build on pilot interventions, provide data and knowledge relating to participation, ideas on empowerment of community and relating to capacity. Afterthought- perhaps need to consider idea of moving onto more sites in subsequent years as part of roll out and development of distributed demonstration sites.
6. Timescales. Two phased approach to the proposal were suggested and agreed. The first phase is to produce an outline draft proposal ad this will be generated through e-mail exchange between members of the taskforce. The second phase would be to provide further detail and finalise the proposal, this would be done through concerted effort over a two day workshop, probably in Addis Abeba. The dates of these activities have to be finalized but the overall time-scales are>
   * Outline draft of proposal structure mid August
   * Draft proposal- end of August
   * Proposal write shop mid/late September

**Action points:**

1. Simon to prepare notes of the discussion (here they are!)
2. Birru, ARARI and BDU to make first attempt and initiate a outline proposal for all partners at the meeting to contribute to according to the timescale above